



Special Report

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updated December 22, 2009

Available Online: dpc.senate.gov

The Recovery Act: Creating Jobs and Making a Difference in Georgia

Earlier this year, the Democratic Congress worked with President Obama to enact the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (the *Recovery Act*) in an effort to rescue, rebuild, and strengthen our struggling national economy. Eight years of failed fiscal policies and misguided economic priorities had left our national economy on the brink of disaster, and now – only nine months later – our economy is on the brink of recovery. The *Recovery Act* and the efforts of American businesses and workers, like those in Georgia, made this progress possible.

Despite this encouraging news, Democrats know that many Georgians are still struggling, and unemployment – a lagging economic indicator – remains far too high. In response, Democrats are working to create and save millions of jobs with *Recovery Act* dollars and tax relief. Already, with more than half of the dollars yet to be spent, the recovery package has provided for more than one million jobs and the rate of job loss has slowed significantly. As we look toward the future, Democrats believe that the *Recovery Act*, combined with the American work ethic and ingenuity, will continue to make a difference for families in Georgia and will deliver on its promise to rebuild our economy and get Georgians back to work.

The Recovery Act is Creating Jobs and Making a Difference

Last week, the White House announced that certain recipients of *Recovery Act* funds have reported the creation of 640,329 direct jobs. About 325,000 of these jobs are in education and over 80,000 are in construction. These numbers, however, represent only about 16 percent of expenditures through September 30 and do not reflect the majority of *Recovery Act* funding to date, which has gone directly to individuals and states, including:

- Tax relief for businesses and working families;
- Small business loans, which are exempt from reporting;
- The first-time homebuyer tax credit;
- Direct federal aid, including \$250 direct stimulus checks, enhanced unemployment benefits, increased food stamp benefits for vulnerable families; and
- State fiscal relief, which prevented job cuts at the state and local government level.

Moreover, the reported data does not capture indirect or induced jobs created when prime contractors hire suppliers or other companies to complete projects or when newly employed workers spend their pay checks. It is estimated that, if included, indirect jobs would add

another 50 percent or more to the direct jobs numbers and induced jobs would add an additional 36 percent. [Office of the Vice President, [10/30/09](#); CBPP, [10/28/09](#)]

Taken as a whole, the reported data confirms earlier estimates that the *Recovery Act* would create or save over one million jobs by now, even though less than half of the *Recovery Act* funds have been put to work. [Office of the Vice President, [10/30/09](#)] According to Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projections, that number may be as high as 1.6 million jobs. [CBO, [11/09](#)]

Moreover, without the *Recovery Act*, economists believe that the economy and the unemployment rate would be much worse.

- According to CBO projections, “an additional 600,000 to 1.6 million people were employed in the United States, and real (inflation-adjusted) gross domestic product (GDP) was 1.2 percent to 3.2 percent higher, than would have been the case in the absence of ARRA.” [CBO, [11/09](#)]
- The Commerce Department reported that the nation’s gross domestic product grew by 2.2 percent in the third quarter of 2009, the first expansion in more than a year. Economists are projecting 4 percent growth in the fourth quarter. [Commerce Department, [12/22/09](#); testimony of Dr. Martin Baily before the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, [12/16/09](#)]
- According to economist Mark Zandi, “The research of Moody’s Economy.com suggests that a million fewer jobs would exist today, while the unemployment rate would already have risen well into double digits.” [Testimony before the Joint Economic Committee, [10/29/09](#)]

The Recovery Act is Creating Jobs and Making a Difference in Georgia

In Georgia, this partial reporting indicates that 24,681 jobs have been created or saved by funding 1,492 awards worth \$4,195,607,130, of which \$1,351,909,776 has already been received. [Recovery, Accountability, and Transparency Board, accessed [11/2/09](#)]

Similar to the national number, this validates the White House’s earlier estimates that the *Recovery Act* is responsible for saving or creating 30,800 jobs so far for Georgians (accounting for indirect and induced jobs). [Council of Economic Advisors, [9/2009](#)] **Georgia is on track to benefit from a total of 106,000 *Recovery Act* jobs.** [The White House, [2/2009](#)]

These numbers alone cannot adequately convey the human impact of the jobs that are supported by the *Recovery Act* – the real-life stories of local companies that can hire new employees, workers who are no longer faced with uncertainty, and families that no longer need to struggle to pay their bills. The following is a sampling of some of the local *Recovery Act* success stories in Georgia:

Solar energy projects will receive funding through Georgia’s *Recovery Act*-supported clean energy property rebate program. “State officials say solar energy projects are receiving \$4.5 million through Georgia’s Clean Energy Property Rebate Program. A bill approved by the Georgia Legislature this year created a commercial clean energy rebate program for solar, wind, energy efficiency and geothermal heat pump projects, with funding contingent on the availability of federal stimulus money. Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority executive director Phil Foil says his agency received \$82.5 million in stimulus funds

for the state energy program and obligated \$4.5 million for clean energy rebates.” [FOX 5 Atlanta, 12/18/09]

Recovery Act will fund Georgia Work Ready, a state program that aims to improve hiring and employee training practices by creating job profiles, assessing workers’ skills and offering gap training to improve skills. “Two Rockdale County industries recently received state funds designed to improve employment and overall productivity, according to officials. Golden State Foods and Solo Cup were part of \$1.4 million grant to 29 Georgia manufacturing facilities... Through federal stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the state will reimburse these companies for employee training — up to \$500 per employee, with a maximum of \$50,000 per facility. The awarded industries are working toward Certified Work Ready facility status. Georgia Work Ready is a state program that aims to improve hiring and employee training practices by creating job profiles, assessing workers’ skills and offering gap training to improve skills. Participants have the opportunity to earn different levels of certification, which can be used to supplement employment applications and job advancement... Solo Cup has been participating in the Work Ready program since January 2008, said Solo Cup human resources manager Lisa Phillips, who covers facilities in Conyers, Social Circle and Augusta... New hires are already taking the assessments, Phillips said, and the extra funding for training will allow existing employees to also be involved... ‘The program has strengthened our workforce,’ Donahue said, adding that Golden State hired more than 90 new employees this year. And identifying the best candidate for the job through job-specific profiles has significantly reduced turnover, said Donahue.” [Rockdale Citizen, 12/9/09]

Recovery Act will be used to clean up the river in Satilla by catching litter that has washed into the drainage system. “City Engineer Frank Baugh said the city received word Tuesday from Gov. Sonny Perdue’s office that its grant application to install a litter-catching device on Tebeau Creek had been approved. The city will receive \$134,000 in federal stimulus money administrated through the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority. About \$80,400 will be forgiven, Baugh said, with the city required to repay up to \$53,600 over a 10-year period at 3 percent interest. The funds will be used to install a boom and basket across the creek, which serves as the city’s main drainage canal, to catch litter that has washed into the drainage system and ultimately into the Satilla.” [Florida Times-Union, 11/19/09]

The Savannah-Chatham school system is using Recovery Act funds to save the equivalent of 530 jobs at high-poverty schools. “Schools all over Georgia have increased class sizes and downsized teaching staff to make up for state funding cuts, but the Savannah-Chatham school system is keeping teachers in several classrooms using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funds... The Savannah-Chatham public school system was awarded \$10.95 million in federal stimulus funding for Title I, or high-poverty schools; \$7.5 million for special education; and \$9.9 million in stabilization funds to offset state budget reductions... The stabilization money, which is being allotted in two-year increments, will allow the district to retain the equivalent of 530 jobs, according to Rebecca McClain, the school system’s chief financial officer. The \$10.95 million in Title I stimulus funds has created 10 transition coaches at every high-poverty middle and high school, as well as one part-time guidance counselor and one academic coach. It also saved 55.4 teaching jobs and 6.5 paraprofessional jobs at high-poverty schools with a poverty rating of 75 percent or higher.” [Savannah Morning News, 11/18/09]

The University of Georgia officials reported that they used Recovery Act money to pay the equivalent of more than 1,700 employees in August. “University of Georgia officials say they used federal stimulus money to pay the equivalent of more than 1,700 employees in August. UGA got about \$19 million from the nearly \$1 billion in American

Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds that went to the University System of Georgia this year. School officials said Thursday that an equivalent of 1,723.9 full-time employees were paid with the funds in August. The university submitted the figures to the state to be included in a nationwide federal database.” [*Associated Press*, 11/13/09]

Recovery Act money saved more than 1,700 jobs at the University of Georgia.

“According to UGA's figures, stimulus money the federal government has pumped into the state saved 1,723.9 university jobs as of August. UGA also reported 751.8 jobs saved in July, and fewer than 100 earlier in the year. Research grants funded by stimulus money, or the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, created an additional 35 jobs... The state University System of Georgia plugged about \$92 million in stimulus money (not counting the research grants) into this year's budget. About \$19 million of that money flowed to UGA, the state's largest university, said UGA officials. UGA accountants say the university used all the stimulus early in the year, all spent on payroll - enough to pay the salaries of 1,723.9 workers in August. But in September, those same workers' pay will be coming from different pots of money that go into the overall UGA budget, such as student tuition and tax money... The stimulus program has worked as intended, according to UGA economic analyst Jeff Humphreys.” [*Athens Banner-Herald*, 11/12/09]

Recovery Act-funded road projects will create jobs for residents of northern Georgia.

“Chattooga and Gordon counties in North Georgia will share in \$65.8 million in transportation projects that Gov. Sonny Perdue announced today will be funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. “These projects will bring safety improvements and needed maintenance and support to roads, intersections and bridges around Georgia,” Gov. Perdue said in a news release... Chattooga County projects include resurfacing and maintaining Gore-Subligna road from Georgia Route 1 to County Road 29 (Johnston Road), and pavement rehabilitation on Narrows Road from County Road 337 to west of County Road 330. The cost for both projects is just less than \$732,000. Gordon will get just less than \$250,000 to repave Craigtown Road from Georgia 225 to U.S. Highway 41. Not on the list is a Catoosa project to widen Georgia 151 in front of the county's new industrial park.” [*Chattooga Times*, 11/9/09]

Recovery Act funding will save up to \$4 million yearly for Georgia prisons after funds will help install smart grid meters and streamline screening for pardons and paroles.

“Georgia prison officials are concerned they could run out of ways to save money before the state budget stops shrinking. First the Department of Corrections closed prisons and housed three inmates in cells built for two. Now the agency is turning out lights in its 2,200 buildings and finding other ways to save on its energy bills, thanks to \$16.5 million in federal stimulus grants won in the spring. With half the grant money, the agency will install meters that report to a central office if electricity usage rises above predicted levels so unneeded lights or other equipment can be immediately turned off. The other half will go to inspecting every building to make sure all the equipment works in sync, said Larry Latimer, the director of engineering and construction... He anticipates savings of \$4 million yearly, based on similar efforts in Missouri's prison system. The department is also working with the Board of Pardons and Paroles on streamlining screening that could lead to reprieves for medical reasons. Releasing chronically ill inmates saves the department heavy medical costs.” [*Augusta Chronicle*, 11/8/09]

16,000 Georgia teachers have jobs thanks to the Recovery Act funding. “16,000 Georgia teachers have jobs right now thanks to federal stimulus money. Georgia received nearly two-billion stimulus dollars for education. WALB News Ten's Tayleigh Davis spoke to one Lee County teacher who moved into a new position because of the money. Deanna Julian has been a part of the Special Needs Program at Lee County High School for 11 years. This August, she

moved into a new position as post secondary transition coordinator... Special Education Director for Lee County Schools, Kathy Wooten, was able to create the position after the program received nearly \$1 million in stimulus money.” [[WALB NBC 10](#), 11/5/09]

The Department of Corrections is set to use *Recovery Act* funds for a series of energy efficiency projects at prisons around the state. “The Georgia Department of Corrections has received \$16 million in federal economic stimulus grants for a series of energy efficiency projects at prisons around the state... About half of the \$16 million will be used to install meters at each of the prison system’s more than 200 buildings to measure use of electricity in real time. [Larry Latimer, the department’s director of engineering and construction] said the project is modeled after Missouri’s prison system, which saved 10 percent on its utility bills during the first year after the meters were installed. Another \$5.7 million will go toward inspections of energy systems at selected facilities. A recent federal study found that adjusting systems to create optimal energy efficiency can save 10 percent to 25 percent on utility costs, Latimer said. The rest of the grant money will be used for site-specific energy projects, he said.” [[Atlanta Business Chronicle](#), 11/5/09]

***Recovery Act* funding will be used to train Meals-on-Wheels volunteers to become health literacy coaches for the elderly, in order to improve their interaction with health care providers.** “The University of Georgia researchers Vicki Freimuth and Don Rubin got \$970,039 in federal stimulus money for a two-year project that uses volunteers to help the vulnerable elderly improve their interaction with health care providers. The project will train Meals on Wheels volunteers to become health literacy coaches for older adults. Meals on Wheels volunteers regularly bring meals to the elderly and disabled, who otherwise cannot provide food for themselves. The project will be conducted in DeKalb, Fulton and Cobb counties and in several rural counties in southwest Georgia. ‘Older adults often are less likely to express their needs to doctors,’ Freimuth said. ‘They are more passive patients.’ This passivity makes them less likely to ask questions when they don’t understand health care professionals, which can impede treatment. For example, older adults are at risk of dangerous medication errors because they are not well-enough informed about how to properly take their medication. Freimuth and Rubin’s research will focus on oral communication between health-care professionals and older adults. Many of the older adults receiving Meals on Wheels services are socially isolated, and their interaction with the volunteer is one of their few chances during the day for interaction.” [[Atlanta Business Chronicle](#), 11/ 5/09]

Savannah River Ecology Laboratory will use *Recovery Act* funding to create 12 new full-time positions, restore 16 full-time university researcher positions. “Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, the University’s research facility near Aiken, S.C., received a \$2.6 million federal grant, enabling the facility to create 12 new full-time positions. The grant, provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will also restore about 16 full-time University researcher positions... Controversy surrounded SREL in 2007 when federal funding from the Department of Energy was decreased substantially. The facility was forced to consider closing its doors but received enough funding to stay open... The stimulus grant SREL received through the ARRA on Sept. 30 will give it enough money to continue for two years... The grant will also go toward restarting projects and starting new projects.” [[Red and Black Georgia News](#), 10/28/09]

The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport will construct a new terminal with *Recovery Act* funds. “Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport said Monday it received \$34 million in federal stimulus funds to help pay for the new Maynard

Holbrook Jackson Jr. International Terminal. The Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program granted Hartsfield-Jackson about \$14 million to build the apron for the new international terminal and the Transportation Security Administration gave \$20 million to develop its inline baggage-screening system... 'Hartsfield-Jackson is the economic engine of the Southeast, and we appreciate the stimulus funds granted to enhance the infrastructure of the world's busiest airport,' said Aviation General Manager Ben DeCosta, in a news release... Hartsfield-Jackson has nonstop international service to more than 90 cities in 55 countries. It is the largest employer in Georgia and has an annual economic impact on metro Atlanta of \$23.5 billion." [[Atlanta Business Chronicle](#), 10/26/09]

The Savannah River Ecology Lab will create 16 jobs and retain 16 research positions with \$2.6 million in Recovery Act funding. "A \$2.6 million federal stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Energy will bring new jobs to the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, the University of Georgia research facility located near Aiken. The grant for seven new and five continuing research projects will create 12 new full-time jobs and allow approximately 16 University of Georgia research professionals and technicians to retain their full-time positions at a facility that repeatedly has downsized in recent years because of funding cuts... SREL also provides graduate and undergraduate research training and service to the community through environmental outreach. SREL has played an essential role in the government's stewardship and management of Savannah River Site, researching all ecological aspects of site operations. During the past four to five years, as the research priorities of the DOE changed and funding to UGA decreased, the number of employees at the lab decreased from a peak of 200 in 2004-2005 to 50 this year – a 70 percent decline. The funding will allow SREL to begin to rebuild research programs." [[Augusta Chronicle](#), 10/22/09]

400 jobs, mostly teaching positions, in Richmond County schools will be saved over the next two years thanks to Recovery Act funding. "Officials with Richmond County schools say \$32 million in federal stimulus money will save 400 jobs in that district over the next 2 years. Nearly \$9 million of the money has already helped to balance out severe cuts to state funds made earlier in the year and helped to pay more than 800 teacher's salaries through the month of October. The remaining money will be used for a variety of things including funding a summer school program, intervention specialists and academic coaches, and providing instruction materials for special education students." [[Georgia Public Broadcasting](#), 10/6/09]

In Richmond County, \$32 million in Recovery Act funding will assist over 800 teachers and save 400 school jobs over the next two years. "This school year through 2011, the Richmond County school system has been approved for nearly \$32 million in federal stimulus funds. The money will have a wide range of uses, said Anita Faglier, the system's director of finance and accounting... Officials say the money should save more than 400 school jobs over the next two years. Nearly \$8.8 million is coming from a pot of money called State Fiscal Stabilization Funds, which essentially helps local school systems replace cuts in state funding... Ms. Faglier said that through October, funding for 802 teachers will be provided for by stimulus money instead of general fund dollars... The remainder of the stimulus money is split up in several other pots for specific purposes. There is \$14.7 million for many services and teachers, to include 25 instructional coaches in reading and math and 10 intervention specialists to help transition students from middle to high school and from there to postsecondary education." [[Augusta Chronicle](#), 10/04/09]

Recovery Act funds have saved hundreds of teaching jobs in Georgia. "Figures are starting to come in showing how the stimulus is saving education jobs in the state of Georgia. The state hasn't released official numbers yet, but, officials with several counties have told

11Alive News, the funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act have helped keep hundreds of teachers on staff in various counties. They include 534 in Gwinnett County, 530 in DeKalb County, and 125 in Hall County. The state is now going through those figures as they look to hold the school systems accountable for their stimulus expenditures. "They're struggling with personnel to get all the work done and so forth," says Georgia Schools Superintendent Kathy Cox, "but it's just very important that we have good, accurate data that we can feed back up into the bigger picture." [11Alive News, 9/17/09]

Recovery Act saves the jobs of 125 teachers that work with low-income, underprivileged, and special education students in Hall County. "She was rehired a month after, essentially, being fired. Lori Smallwood had spent several years teaching in the Hall County school district when she was told in May her contract would not be renewed. It wasn't a matter of performance, officials told her. It was a matter of budget cuts. Thankfully for Smallwood, she was hired back a month later – thanks, officials say, to a much-needed boost from the stimulus. Officials tell 11Alive's Matt Pearl that Hall County received \$15.6 million in stimulus funds. It comes at a time when state budget cuts would have forced the county to cut upwards of 200 teaching jobs. Instead, 125 of those jobs were saved, many of which deal with helping special education and underprivileged youths." [Atlanta 11 News, 9/15/09]

Savannah River Site hires 1000th new employee with Recovery Act money for environmental cleanup; planning to hire 1,200 more new employees for recovery act jobs over the next few months. "Last month, job fairs were held in Aiken and Augusta, with crowds putting in applications for about 3,000 jobs being created by Recovery Act projects at [Savannah River Site]. On Friday, SRS announced that it had hired its 1,000th new employees with the stimulus money for environmental cleanup at the site – Frankie Hutto, of Williston, S.C., an experienced truck driver and heavy equipment operator. 'I had been out of work for two months, and at age 53 I was worried about not being offered a job at the site,' he said in an SRS news release. 'But it worked out great, and I'm pleased to be here.' Ms. Nettamo said about 800 site employees also have been retained for stimulus jobs. But that leaves about 1,200 jobs to be filled, she said. 'We're estimating the hiring will continue for another few months,' she said, adding that peak staffing levels are projected for November." [Augusta Chronicle (GA), 8/24/09]

Recovery Act-funded cleanup of the Savannah River site has created or retained 1,672 jobs. "With more than \$787 billion in total job-producing firepower, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is already having a positive impact at Department of Energy facilities around the country, including our own Savannah River Site. SRS officials report that Recovery Act funds are directly responsible for creating or retaining 1,672 jobs as of July 31. The site is processing 75 to 100 new hires each week, a significant boost for a regional economy that has experienced hundreds of layoffs, dozens of business closings and a host of bankruptcy filings, home foreclosures and other unprecedented negative impacts over the past 12 months. ARRA – known by most Americans as the Stimulus Act – was directly responsible for more than \$1.6 billion in new federal funding being directed to Savannah River Site to accelerate the decades-long job of decommissioning and cleanup. Quicker cleanup made possible by stimulus funds is expected to save taxpayers about a billion dollars over what would be required for the same work a few years from now." [Augusta Chronicle, 8/23/09]

Exide Technologies received means to create 200 jobs in Columbus through Recovery Act award. "Exide Technologies, a Milton, Ga.-based lead-acid battery manufacturer, has won a \$34.3 million federal grant that will allow the company to add up to 200 manufacturing jobs at its Columbus facility over the next three years. The grant stems from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which is providing \$2.4 billion in funds

for new advanced battery and electric drive projects. President Barack Obama announced winning projects last week. Exide plans to use the money to produce lead-acid batteries for environmentally friendly vehicles — hybrid electric vehicles and idle reduction commercial vehicles — using advanced carbon technology. At its Joy Road location in Columbus, Exide will churn out advanced AGM flat plate batteries — special pieces that are said to do more work and last longer than typical batteries. Plans also are in the works to expand that local operation to make room for the new manufacturing line. That project will probably begin this year and continue into 2010, said Carol Knies, Exide senior director of investor relations. Company officials said in a news release that they think the multi-million dollar investment will allow them to establish production capacity of about 1.5 million batteries and create 320 jobs over the next three years — about 120 at its transportation manufacturing facility in Bristol, Tenn., and 200 at its Columbus operation. Exide will receive up to \$15 million in tax incentives and other benefits over the next 10 years from both states.” [[Columbus Ledger-Enquirer](#), 8/14/09]

Georgia and South Carolina received *Recovery Act* funds to explore ways to protect energy systems from disruptions. “Georgia and South Carolina will receive almost \$1.7 million in U.S. Energy Department grants to explore ways to protect energy systems from disruptions such as blackouts, hurricanes, ice storms and shortages of heating supplies. In all, nearly \$38 million will be allocated nationwide for such programs, with funds allocated through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, according to a press release issued today by Energy Secretary Steven Chu. Georgia’s share totals \$1,088,694 and South Carolina will receive \$611,034. The funds will help improve emergency preparedness plans and can be used by state governments to hire or retrain staff and expand state-level capacities to address energy challenges.” [[Augusta Chronicle](#), 8/12/09]

10 *Recovery Act* grants to support 35 research positions at Emory University. “At least 50 research projects so far, supported by more than \$10 million in stimulus grants from the National Institutes of Health, are expected to lead to new discoveries at Emory University that will improve medical treatment, create new jobs, and provide additional educational opportunities for students. Emory has received half of all the NIH ARRA grants awarded to Georgia academic institutions thus far. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), passed by Congress in February, opened up funding opportunities for new projects as well as supplemental funding for projects that already are well on their way to achieving significant results. Emory scientists expect to advance research discoveries in areas ranging from heart disease, cancer and neurology to organ transplantation, pulmonary diseases, addiction and epilepsy. In addition to research grants, NIH provided funding for Emory scientists to hire eight high school students, 22 college students, and five teachers for summer research positions.” [[Press Release – Emory University](#), 8/9/09]

More than 1,600 people are working at Savannah River site; the *Recovery Act*-funded project will eventually employ 3,000. “More than 1,600 people are working at Savannah River Site in jobs funded by the federal government's economic recovery act. When fully ramped up, there will be 3,000 people working at SRS on environmental clean-up and nuclear reactor decommissioning. SRS reports that nearly 800 of those people were existing employees who would have lost their jobs if not for the \$1.6 billion in projects. But many of the new hires were also saved by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, finding employment after recession-related layoffs... “When Bill Picciano wrote a check to pay the mortgage in May, it wiped out what was left of the family's savings account. Laid off by Kennametal in March, the North Augusta man and his family were living off a weekly \$320 unemployment check – after taxes, he was left with \$277. ‘We made some big adjustments. We cut back on a lot of things to keep it between the digits,’ Mr. Picciano said. He was the night shift

supervisor at the Martinez drill-bit manufacturing facility and saw his crew of 25 dwindle to four. 'I figured I was next.' He was. Then the call came – a job at SRS for work under the Recovery Act. Since the beginning of June, Mr. Picciano has been working in logistics for one of the nuclear waste clean-up areas. 'Through a lot of prayer, God blessed me with this,' he said. 'It's been good ever since.' Before his year and a half at Kennametal, he worked at Boral Bricks and was laid off." [[Augusta Chronicle](#), 8/2/09]

Arts organizations across Georgia will be sponsored by *Recovery Act* money, preventing further job loss. "One by one, the jobs were going away: fund-raising director, box-office supervisor. Musician. Artistic director. More than 40 nonprofits told the Fulton County Arts Council they had to curb salaries or cut a position either late last year or in early 2009, said Veronica Williams Njoku, the council's director. Others warned of cuts to come — some needed \$5,000 to make payroll, others needed \$50,000... Njoku learned recently that the arts council has a chance to save some of those jobs with \$250,000 in federal stimulus money, funneled through the National Endowment for the Arts. The arts council, in turn, will award the money to some of the 104 nonprofits it helps fund annually. 'These are organizations that have had to downsize staffing and programming and yet are still trying to maintain a high level of service and quality,' Njoku said... The stimulus package, signed into law six months ago, is about adding jobs and kick-starting the nation's economic recovery... 'If you look at [the arts community] as any other business, it's a business that is fragile and is in great danger right now.' The Atlanta arts community has suffered from recession-fueled cuts in audiences, donors, endowments and public funding." [[Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), 7/19/09]

Georgia's first *Recovery Act* transportation effort scheduled to begin. "The project will smooth a portion of U.S. Highway 19/State Route 3 running between Fulton and Clayton counties starting in Hapeville, and is expected to create or maintain more than 250 jobs. Officials believe the project using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds will also stimulate businesses along the busy roadway. [[Associated Press](#), 6/30/09]

The Muscogee County School District plans to use stabilization money from the *Recovery Act* to fund several hundred jobs. Among the jobs slated to be funded by the stabilization money are 57 school secretary positions, 159 elementary paraprofessional positions and about 30 teaching positions in art, music and physical education in elementary schools. [[Ledger-Enquirer](#), 6/9/09]

The Colquitt County school system will use *Recovery Act* money to fund 12 teaching positions. [[Moultrie Observer](#), 5/20/09]

Clarke County plans to use *Recovery Act* funds to create 55 positions next year. New employment opportunities include special education teachers and reading and math specialists. [[Athens Banner-Herald](#), 5/10/09]